

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC, BU
SUBJECT: ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM: LECTURERS

STATE FOR CU/EE; USIA FOR IEE

REF: A) STATE 17020; B) SOFIA 140

1. IN CALL BY P&C OFFICER JANUARY 28, PROF. RADI PARASHKEVOV OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION (REF B, PARA 2) INTRODUCED NEW ELEMENTS INTO QUESTION OF BRINGING AMERICAN LECTURER TO BULGARIA:

A. CONTRARY TO COMMENTS BY SOFIA UNIVERSITY RECTOR SENDOV (REF B, PARA 1D), PARASHKEVOV DISCLAIMED DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF EMBASSY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SENDOV. MOST OF CALL WAS TAKEN UP WITH P&C OFFICER REVIEWING GROUND PREVIOUSLY COVERED WITH SENDOV.

B. PARASHKEVOV NOTED "CYRIL AND METHODIUS" UNIVERSITY IN VELIKO TURNOVO ALSO HAS ENGLISH PHILOLOGY CHAIR AND MIGHT EQUALLY BE INTERESTED IN AMERICAN PROFESSOR. P&C OFFICER NOTED PLANNED EXCHANGE WAS RESULT OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY'S INTEREST. PARASHKEVOV REPLIED HE WOULD INVESTIGATE WHICH UNIVERSITY WOULD BE BETTER HOST AND WOULD SEND EMBASSY INFORMATION ABOUT VELIKO TURNOVO.

C. PARASHKEVOV WILL TAKE UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CULTURAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT GENERAL QUESTION OF PROJECT
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AND PARTICULARLY UNDER WHAT FORMAL AUSPICES EXCHANGE WOULD

BE CARRIED OUT. P&C OFFICER NOTED EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS TO EXCHANGE LETTERS. PARASHKEVOV COMMENTED BULGARIAN LETTER COULD COME FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE OR RECEIVING UNIVERSITY.

D. AS WAS FORCAST (REF B, PARA 4), PARASHKEVOV RAISED DESIRABILITY OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT. HE INDIRECTLY ASKED WHETHER EXCHANGE OF LECTURERS COULD BE INRTUDED UNDER IREX AGREEMENT; P&C OFFICER REPLIED THIS DID NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE, AT LEAST INITIALLY.

E. PARASHKEVOV ASKED FOR DESCRIPTION OF METHODS OF FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN GENERAL. P&C OFFICER DREW UPON HIS KNOWLEDGE AND REF A, PARAS 3 AND 4, IN REPLY BUT OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO BI-NATIONAL COMMISSIONS. PARASHKEVOV ASKED FOR WRITTEN INFORMATION TO PROVIDE HIS SUPERIORS IN COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE (AND PRESUMABLY OTHER RELEVANT AUTHORITIES).

F. PARASHKEVOV COULD OFFER NO SPECIFICS ON STIPEND, HOUSING, OTHER BENEFITS TO BE GIVEN AMERICAN LECTURER, SAYING HE NEEDED TO DISCUSS THESE WITH "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES". FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, HE STATED, WERE MAJOR REASON FOR INCLUDING EXCHANGE IN LONGER-TERM AGREEMENT, RATHER THAN OPERATING AD HOC. HE DID AGREE THAT LECTURER WITH NO MORE THAN TWO CHILDREN WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE FROM STANDPOINT OF AVAILABLE HOUSING IN SOFIA; THIS, HE SAID, WAS ANOTHER REASON FOR CONSIDERING VELIKO TURNOVO, WHERE MORE HOUSING AVAILABLE.

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS:

A. THE PROJECT, WHILE NOT ADVANCED BY MEETING WITH PARASHKEVOV, HAS NOT NECESSARILY BEEN HARMED. INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY BE NO MORE THAT PRO FORMA, BUT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL SLOW FINAL APPROVAL BY BULGARIANS. WE HAVE STRESSED NEED FOR EARLY DECISIONS TO FACILITATE RECRUITMENT.

B. INSERTION OF VELIKO TURNOVO UNIVERSITY RECALLS REASONING GIVEN FOR NOT RENEWING AMERICAN LECTURER AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEVERAL YEARS AGO: THAT SOFIA COULD NOT HANDLE TWO ENGLISH-SPEAKING LECTURERS AT ONCE, AND BRITISH ARE SUPPLYING ONE UNDER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT. ABSENCE OF BRITISH LECTIZER DURING 1?4-75 FALL SEMESTER MAY HAVE PRODDED SENDOV'S INTEREST IN AMERICAN LECTURER, BUT HIS DESIRE FOR "SOMETHING SPECIAL FROM AMERICA" (REF B, PARA 1A) IMPLIES HE SEES NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO.

C. WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE WORK TO GET AMERICAN LECTURER INTO SOFIA UNIVERSITY, WE SHOULD NOT DISMISS POSSIBILITY OF VELIKO TURNOVO, WHICH SPECIALIZES IN TRAINING ENGLISH TEACHERS FOR LOWER LEVELS. OF COURSE, SOFIA UNIVERSITY HAS THE BETTER FACILITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY FACULTY TRAINING, AND PROVIDES BETTER ACCESS TO INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY. BUT WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE AND VELIKO TURNOVO WOULD BE A RESPECTABLE THOUGH NOT OPTIMAL BEGINNING.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE AIRMAIL SOONEST BASIC BRIEFING MATERIAL ON FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR PRESENTATION TO PARASHKEVOV.
HERZ

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